(b) the percentage of gross revenue spent for community development alongwith the percentage fixed by the Government; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide more funds for the development of this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Different works relating to Community Development undertaken in the Giridih Coalfields of CCL during last three years within the 8 kms. periphery of coalfields are spread over education, health care, drinking water etc.

(b) The percentage of actual expenditure on Community Development works during last three years is 0.3% of the revenue earning by CCL during the said period i.e. 1993-94 to 1995-96. No percentages are fixed by the Government for such works.

(c) Since the actual expenditure has been less than the budgetary allocation the question of providing more funds does not arise at this stage.

Credit Cards

1916. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints that Foreign Banks are charging exhorbitant rates of interest on the credit cards availed by the users;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the victims of their trap are mostly low paid Government employees and other needy workers of private organisations;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any survey to ensure their fair functioning at the cost of poor people of this country; and

(d) whether the Government also propose to provide a better and cheaper alternative to these people?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) :

(a) to (c). Reserve Band of India (RBI) has reported that it has received a few complaints regarding high interest rate being charged by foreign banks in relation to credit card operations.

RBI has further intimated that interest is levied by banks when the card holder fails to make payment of his bills of the credit cards, by the due dates.

Further, since the customer is expected to be aware of the terms and conditions, before enrolling as a credit card holder, RBI does not intervene in such matters

(d) No Sir.

Sale of Coal

1917. SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stopped the local sale of coal from Lalmatiya Coal Mines of Rajmahal Coal Project in the Godda district of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b). No. Sir. According to the information received from Coal India Limited, coal from Lalmatia Coal mines of Rajmahal group of mines in Godda district of Bihar continue to be sold under Liberalised Sales Scheme (modified).

Prices of Coal

1918. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow public sector coal companies to set up their own price lists for different varities of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :(a) to (c). Pricing and distribution of coking coal and A,B & C grades of non-coking coal have been deregulated by the Central Govt. w.e.f. 22.3.1996. Following this, the Coal India Limited (CIL) have fixed the prices of coking coal and A,B & C grades of non-coking coal w.e.f. 31.3.1996. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have fixed the prices of B & C grades of non-coking coal w.e.f. 19.4.1996. SCCL does not produce coking coal and A grade of non-coking coal.

Non-coking coal of D,E,F & G grades still continue to be regulated by the Government.

Theft of Coal

1919. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI RADHAMOHAN SINGH :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether theft of a large quantity of coal is continuing from different collieries of the country particularly from Bihar and Western Coalfields of Coal India Ltd.. for a long time, consequently the Government is suffering annual loss of lakhs of rupees;

(b) if so, the number of cases of such theft came to notice during the last three years, State-wise; and